

Tarawa Helps Conduct V-22 Osprey Tests



Members of the V-22 Osprey Integrated Test Team work on the anemometers while onboard USS Tarawa during recent operations off the coast of San Diego. (Photo by JOC(SW) W. R. Polson)



An enlisted landing signalman guides a V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft onto the flight deck of an amphibious assault ship in this file photo. (Photo courtesy of V-22 IT Team)

Not all problems in the war on terrorism are being fought on the frontline. Some are being confronted by the teamwork of Navy/Marine Corps units and research, test and evaluation engineers. One such example: the V-22 Osprey Integrated Test Team which recently came aboard USS Tarawa (LHA-1). This 18-member group of engineers, technicians and pilots embarked the San Diego-based amphibious assault ship for a week underway starting Sept. 30. They conducted tests and gathered information designed to improve the safety of the V-22 Osprey, a next-generation military aircraft under development for future deployment

on amphibious warships.

"This was a very important week," said TARAWE Commanding Officer Capt. Jay Bowling. "Instead of testing on an actual V-22, the engineers brought out anemometers to gather information on wind velocity created by other helicopters around a flight deck."

"This was very much a data gathering evolution," said Bill Geyer, the lead engineer of the Osprey IT team from the Naval Air Systems Command. "We wanted to have a better understanding of the environment the V-22 will experience."

The V-22 Osprey is a joint-service aircraft capable of performing a wide variety of missions.

This "medium lift" aircraft operates as a helicopter when taking off and landing, rising or descending vertically. Once airborne, the tilting rotors allows the V-22 Osprey to convert into a turboprop airplane.

According to Geyer, the Osprey IT Team's primary focus during this time was to gather data on "down-wash" — the down-pushing draft of air caused by the rotation of the helicopter blades — by using other helicopters in a shipboard environment. "These tests will help the V-22 to operate safely with other aircraft and helicopters," he said.

As TARAWE steamed off the coast of San Diego during the week, helicopters embarked onboard -- a CH-53E "Super Stallion," a CH-

A personal letter from the **COMMANDING OFFICER**

Greetings TARAWA families and friends, and Welcome Aboard to all of our new families. Before I get started, let me introduce myself. My name is Jay Bowling, I'm originally from West Virginia, and I have nearly 30 years of Naval service. During our last port visit to Pearl Harbor in July, I assumed command from Capt. James Clark. Jim moves on to his new assignment as the Chief of Staff at Commander, Amphibious Group Three, and we all wish him and his family well. Before the Change of Command, I served the previous 16 months as TARAWA's Executive Officer, so I'm familiar with what it takes to command this type of ship.

As I look ahead, I see a lot of challenges in front of us; the biggest is our next Western Pacific deployment. (It's important to note that even though our deployment date is already set, everyone should be ready within a week's notice if we get the call.) Our past training cycle has ensured that the ship is in good shape and ready to meet any challenge thrust upon us. The morale of the crew is at an all time high, and that's especially good as we get ready. Also in the next few weeks, TARAWA will begin a new training phase with the Marines as we prepare to deploy. We'll work

with our counterparts in green as they make their final certifications for special operations so that the TARAWA team can handle any circumstance anywhere in the world.

As we draw closer to deployment, quality of life will mean a lot more to our Sailors' families. Although we have to train and go to sea during the next several months, time in port will be better spent as we come upon the holiday season. We'll continue the same working hours. We'll drop from six duty sections to four. However,

“Quality of life will mean a lot more to our Sailors' families

-Capt. Bowling-

during this time, Sailors will have three out of the four days off to spend with their families. Along these lines, I want to mention the Pre-Deployment Fair on Nov. 5 and 6 (you can read more about it on the next page). This is a great opportunity, especially for those families who have never experienced a major deployment before. Although we in the Navy have

come a long way in preparing ourselves and our families for deployment, things can still go wrong. In my past experiences, everything seemed to start breaking down just as soon as the ship left port. And there was no way I could fix it, no way I could talk to my wife or family. Even though we've got instant communication these days, the Pre-Deployment Fair will still go a long ways to help prepare your family for these situations so please make the time to attend.

On a last quick note, I want to reassure everyone that when we go overseas your Sailor will be safe. We've worked and trained hard to guarantee this and I'll do my best to guarantee that to you. You can count on it. I'll have more in our next news letter. Until then, take care.



The Talon

This newsletter is an authorized publication intended for families and friends of *USS Tarawa (LHA 1)* crewmembers. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views

of the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, nor the U.S. Navy, and does not imply endorsement thereof. The editorial content of this newsletter was prepared and edited by the public affairs staff of *USS Tarawa (LHA 1)*. The editor can be reached by email at:
polsonw@tarawa.navy.mil

Commanding Officer
CAPT John H. Bowling III
Executive Officer
CAPT(SEL) Jeffrey Morman
Public Affairs Office
JOC(SW) William Polson
JO2 Crystal King

Printing support provided by
Tarawa Print Shop
LIC(SW/AW) Cheryl Conder

Graphics
DM1(SW) Valerie Ann Trecha

Time to Prepare with Pre-Deployment Fair

By JO2 Crystal King

Are you prepared for TARAWA's upcoming deployment? Do you know what to do in case of an emergency when your loved one is thousands of miles away from home?

The ship's six-month deployment is just around the corner, and knowing how to prepare can be a daunting task. Have no fear, though, the Pre-Deployment Fairs are on the way!

Two Pre-Deployment Fairs are scheduled during November. The first, geared more towards the single Sailor, will be held Nov. 5 in the ship's hangar bay from 10 a.m. to noon. Various organizations will set up tables with flyers and brochures to provide information and other types of support for TARAWA's crew.



*The Murphy Canyon Chapel Complex in San Diego, above, will host the family Pre-Deployment Fair Nov. 6 from 6-8 p.m.
Photo by JOC(SW) W.R. Polson*

On Nov. 6 another fair aimed more towards families will be held at the Murphy Canyon Chapel Complex in San Diego from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (The Murphy Canyon Chapel is located east off Interstate 15 on the Aero Drive exit. After exiting on Aero Drive, take a right at the top of the hill on Santo Road; the chapel is approximately 2 blocks on the left at 3200 Santo

Road.).

Presentations, childcare and refreshments will be offered during the Pre-Deployment Fair. Discussions will also be held for family situations that might occur during deployment. The following organizations will provide services, information and advice include: the Fleet Family Support Center, the USO (United Services Organization), the Navy Ma-

rine Corps Relief Society, Credo (Credo is not an acronym, it's the Latin word for "I believe") growth and enrichment program, and the American Red Cross.

"The underlying benefit to the Sailors and their families is mental and emotional preparation," said Cmdr. Karla Seyb-Stockton, the ship's Chaplain. "This way they'll have more peace of mind knowing what resources are available."

If you're unable to attend, other resources are available. Information can be obtained through the ship's ombudsmen, Nadine Shaw, at (619) 685-2846

"The best way to deal with the stress of the unexpected is to be prepared," said Cmdr. Seyb-Stockton. "This information will help family and service members to trust that they'll be able to handle whatever comes up."

How are you preparing for deployment?



ICI(SW) Alfred Grant
"After 3 Mediterranean and 2 North Atlantic deployments, I'm pretty much prepared."



PR3 John Pottoroff
"Trying to spend more time talking with my family and paying off my bills."



FN Cheewee Singeru
"Getting qualified for my watches so I can kill time and make the 6 months seem shorter."



AD3 Jeffrey Lovins
"I'm setting up a budget for my wife and myself for each month I'm on deployment."

SHIP'S PICNIC



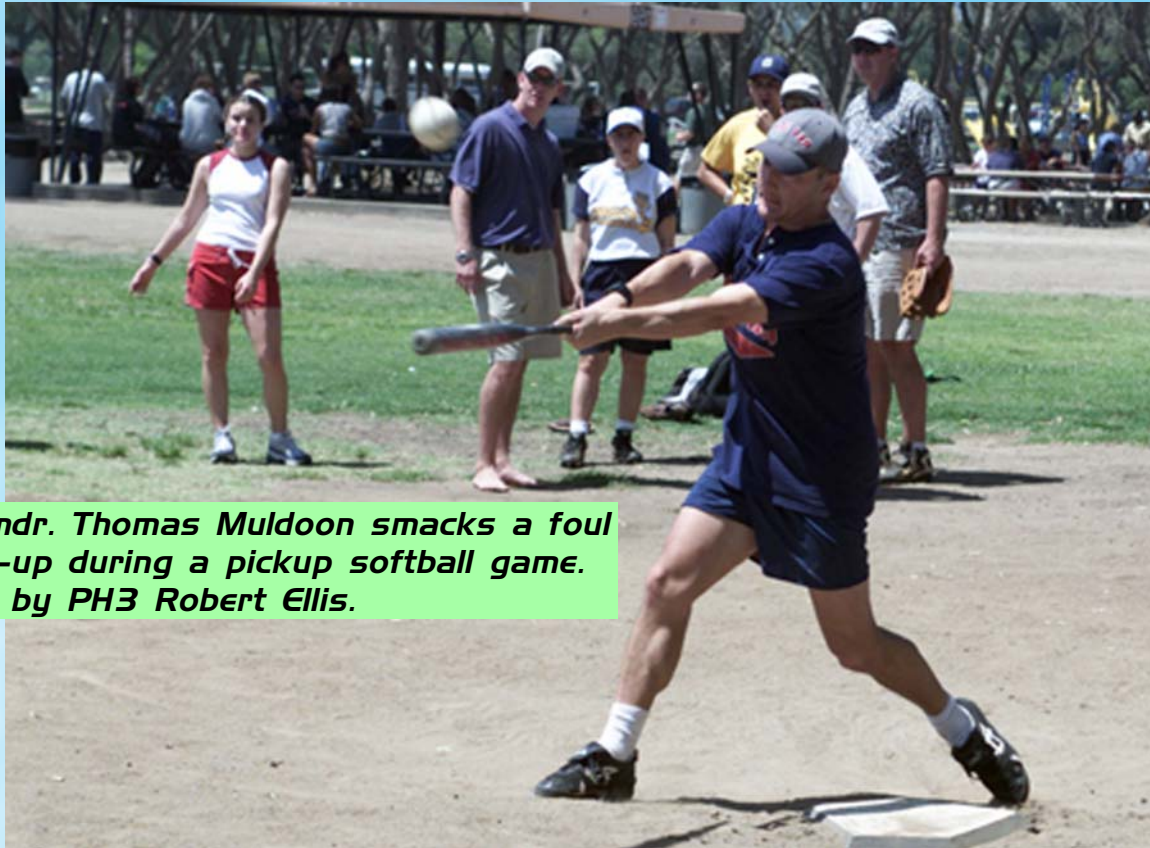
"Frazzle" the Clown brightens the faces of the crew's children with a touch of paint.



Seamen Kyle Graven and Mike Zisler sit down for some burgers and chicken at the barbeque. Photo by PH3 Robert Ellis.



Airman Cannis Sandle, right, picks out the "jams" while disc jockey DJ Rudy spins the discs.



Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Muldoon smacks a foul pop-up during a pickup softball game. Photo by PH3 Robert Ellis.



USS Tarawa crewmembers enjoyed a day of fun in the sun as they rolled into Adm. Baker Field in San Diego for their annual summer picnic Aug. 16. The picnic for the ship's crew and family featured softball, golf and music, as well as games for the kids, and a barbeque. Left, a Tarawa shipmate sends Chief Petty Officer (Select) Edeline Burgess into "Davy Jones" dunk tank to help contribute to the chief's initiation ceremony. PHOTOS AND STORY BY JO2 CRYSTAL KING

Local Radio Station Commemorates 9-11



Above, Hospital Corpsman Brittany Sampson raises the modern version of the original Navy jack, also commonly known as the "Don't Tread on Me" flag.

By JO2 Crystal King

Local San Diego listeners and Sailors aboard USS Tarawa tuned-in to the Dave, Shelly and Chainsaw Show Sept. 11 when WKGB 101.5 broadcasted live from the ship's flight deck.

KGB's program, "9-11 One-Year Later," began at 5:45 a.m. with a moment of silence in remembrance of one year ago when the first plane crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York. TARAWA's crew and show hosts paused to reflect on the

victims who lost their lives.

Guest speakers on KGB's stage included, Commander Surface Pacific Fleet Vice Adm. Tim LaFleur; TARAWA's Commanding Officer, Capt. Jay Bowling, and a United States Marine Corps F-18 pilot, "Capt. Allen," who recently returned from Operation Enduring Freedom.

Also, guests live on the phone included local Fire Captain Michael Scott, who participated in the rescue work at Ground Zero, Pastor Mike McIntosh, California Congressman Duke Cunningham and New York's KOGO radio show host Roger Hedgecock.

A last-minute addition to the show was a TARAWA Sailor who read a poem he wrote dedicated to those lost on Sept. 11, 2001. Seaman Kyle Padgen titled the piece "A Day To Remind Us."

"When I was writing it that day, I didn't write it for anyone in particular," said Padgen. "Since age 15 I have been writing poetry on just about anything that touches me emotionally or has made an impact on my life."

TARAWA Sailors who gathered on the flight deck under a clear morning sky to listen received complementary donuts, coffee, and KGB goods.

This morning was particularly unique because all Navy ships on the waterfront raised a modern version of the original Navy Jack, also commonly known as the "Don't Tread On Me" flag. The historical Jack dates back to the American Revolution when American warships flew the flag

while engaged.

“I appreciate all the recognition the military has received since Sept. 11 and how KGB is paying this tribute to the victims and their families,” said TARAWA crewmember Petty Officer 2nd Class Jessica Willer. She was one of nearly 200 crewmembers who enjoyed the live radio broadcast from TARAWA’s flight deck.

“101.5 KGB is an outstanding organization. Dave, Shelly, and Chainsaw came onboard TARAWA with a live broadcast to commemorate 9/11 and the crew thoroughly enjoyed the show,” said Capt. Bowling.



Above, Lt. j.g. Brian Merriman (front left) and Petty Officer 2nd Class Delmar Hobkirk (right) pause for a moment in their busy work day to listen to the radio broadcast.



Photo by JO2 Crystal King

Information Specialist Seaman Kyle Padgen (left) reads his poem dedicated to those lost on 9/11 during a live broadcast by WKGB 101.5. The local radio station broadcasted their morning show from USS Tarawa’s flight deck on Sept. 11 this year.

PROUD EAGLES OF THE SEA

Congratulations to the following crewmembers for awards during the past quarter!



FROCKINGS

MS2 James Bradfield
MS2 Damon Jones
MM2 Samuel Milan
BM2 Ratsavong
Phommachanh
DC2 Michael Shibley

GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS (Cont'd)



OS2(SW) Matthew Klages
IC2 Joshua Nichols
IT2 Tana Raulston
AG3 Daniel Bonvouloir
ABH3 Helene Cormier
CTO3 Barry Dudley
PN3 Kari Elmore
MM3 Santiago Espino
IT3 Jaime Fisher
SK3 Anslem Hosein
AD3 Christopher James
MS3 Giminiski Lawerance
EM3 Jose Lopez
OS3 Eric Kilby
MS3 Noemi Maldonado
MM3 Kyle McPhail
MR3 Daniel Nitznski
AO3 Timothy Rosales
MM3 Aldo Sanchez
AS3 Tran Hiep
FN Christopher Huddleston

BM2 Franklin Delos Reyes
BM2 Jeffrey Lewis
BM2 Larry Sherrill
BM2 Ratsavong Phommachanh
BM2 Jason Stanley
BM3 Juan Barrosomuriel
BM3 Jason Fry
MM3 Takashi Hamada
BM3 James Hamill
BM3 Nathan Johnson
BM3 Sabas Torres
SN Matthew VanWestern
SN Joshua Waugh

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL



AOCS(AW) Richard Hoover
ET1(SW) Brenda Ann Tryton

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



HM1(SW/FMF) Christopher Semano
ABF1 Roman Benitez
ABF1 Matthew Fleischauer
MM1 Renato Potosme
EW2(SW) David Archer
PN2 Theresa Bender
MM2 Ritchie Gouk
AC2(AW) Aaron Rathburn
AS2 Youlanda Smith
ABH2 Luke Willdigg

ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE

SPECIALIST (ESWS)



DT1(SW) Ervin Borja
MS1(SW) Reynaldo Cortez
SK1(SW) Ruby Lim
MM1(SW) Renato Potosme
OS2(SW) Nicholas Cruz
MS2(SW) Rommel Reyes
ET2(SW) Jeremy Starks
AS3(AW/SW) Hiep Tran

ENLISTED AVIATION WARFARE

SPECIALIST (EAWS)



BMC(SW/AW) William Walton
AS3 Erickson Arucan
AK1(AW) Benito Bejoc
ABH3(AW) George Gonzalez

GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

OS2 Genelee Ebel
JO2 Crystal King

COMMANDER, NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

MS3 Adrian Escudero
MS3 Jaqueline Garcia
MS3 Melissa Hartley
MS3 Giminiski Lawerance
MS2 Ariel Pestanas
MS1 Allen Rubio
MS3 Robert Sanchez

FLAG

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

HMC(SW/AW) Rosalynn Bendtsen
MSC(SW/AW) Juancho Lucero
NCC David McLin
EMC Fernando Musico
MRC Christopher Olis
BMC(SW/AW) William Walton
EMC Rodel Simbulan
MMC Lefata To'oto'o
MSC Ver Caldonga
HT1 Ike Chandler
DC1 Jonathan Crump
EM1 Steve Edquiban
AS1 William Ferrer
BM1 Jason Green
PC1 Romel Jackson
BM2 Eric Danner

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

ABH2(SW/AW) Luke Willdigg
AS3 Hongchau Dang

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

MSC(SW/AW) Juancho Lucero
MS2(SW) Arnold Dones
JO2 Crystal King
MS2(SW/AW) Teofilo Pardo
MS2 Juan Ramirez
MS2 Rommel Reyes
MS3 James Earnst
MS3 Julius Gomez
ADAN Mario Arias

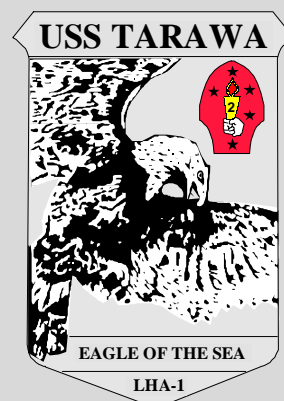
CHIEF OF INFORMATION (CHINFO)

MERIT AWARD

DM1 Valerie Ann Trecha

FOOD SERVICE ATTENDANT OF THE MONTH

ITSA John Shawbell
AA Mirna Elizabeth Molina
MMFN Nicole Allen



Chiefs of the New Millenium



Congratulations to the "Eagle of the Sea's"
new Chief Petty Officers for 2002!



MMC (SW) LEWIS SCOTT



ITC (SW) JEFFREY ALFELD



ETC (SW) EDELINE BURGESS



MISC (SW/AW) VER CALDONA



MMC (SW/AW) IEFATA TEO'OTEO



EMC (SW) RODEL SIMBULAN



Photo by JOC(SW) W. R. Polson

Above, a Sea Knight helicopter hovers over TARAWA's flight deck, creating a down-wash that will be measured by the anemometers (lower left center) set up by the V-22 Osprey Team. Below, team member David Mason monitors the results of the approaching helo.

V-22 Continued from Page 1

46 "Sea Knight" and a UH-1N "Huey" — made repeated passes over the ship to create a down-wash measured by anemometers set up on the flight deck. Although this was just one among many tests during a busy week for the Osprey IT team, it was important.

"It was quite an undertaking to set up 12 anemometers on a large structure and then collect data off them," said Geyer. "However, with a lot of risk reduction, I think we've made this as successful as possible."

The ship's Air Department and Air Intermediate Maintenance Department provided constant support to the engineers throughout the week. Both departments performed a myriad of tasks that come with manning flight quarters, handling aircraft and support equipment, as well as providing a work station, according

to Air Department officer Lt.j.g. Regina Rogers.

"Our 'fuelies' (Air Department personnel who refuel aircraft), for example, provided the correct amount of fuel so that the helo had the correct weight for the wind velocity tests," said Rogers. "A couple of our guys, especially Petty Officer Ripp and Petty Officer

this data collection may not be readily apparent. The team will take its results and return to the East Coast where they'll analyze the information, and then develop and validate computer models. Over time these computer models will allow them to find ways to safely integrate the V-22 Osprey with other aircraft and helicopters

in a shipboard environment. The data collection, however, did generate other results more readily apparent — cooperation and teamwork.

"This has been an excellent crew, and they've been very supportive," said Geyer. "They've really bent over backwards to make this happen for us and helped us in many ways. I really appreciate their support."



Photo by JOC(SW) W. R. Polson

Tran, really worked hard to support the V-22 Osprey team."

As for results seen by the deckplate Sailor, a big payoff from

Story by JOC(SW) W.R. Polson

Haze Gray, Underway and Birthdays



Photo by JO2 Crystal King

Birthday celebrants Airman Apprentice Christina DuVall and Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Moore (far right) cut the cake for September's birthday meal with Capt. Bowling (center) and Chief Mess Specialist Choy Lucero.

By JO2 Crystal King

Have you ever dined with your boss to celebrate your birthday? Sailors aboard USS Tarawa are taking advantage of such an opportunity to enjoy a specially prepared meal and to eat with their Commanding Officer, Capt. Jay Bowling.

For many Sailors, a birthday underway is just like any other day at sea, not having any family members close to celebrate the occasion. Aboard TARAWA, however, the Mess Management Specialists take time to prepare a monthly birthday meal especially for these shipmates.

They create a fashionable table setting with linens and glassware to enjoy the experience. Before the meal begins, Capt. Bowling takes his seat with the celebrating

crewmembers and the Chaplain blesses the meal with prayer. Volunteering chief petty officers take the meal orders and host the three-course meal fit for a king.

“It’s nice to have a day set aside to have something done for Sailors on their birthday”
- AO3 William Parkins

“The birthday meal gives the ship’s Mess Management Specialists an opportunity to showcase their culinary skills in a cafeteria-type setting, which they’re not

always given the opportunity to do,” said Mess Management Specialist 1st Class James Dykes, galley supervisor.

During the most recent birthday celebration in TARAWA’s Gator Express -- the nickname for the enlisted messdecks -- birthday celebrants in September had their choice of crab salad with cocktail dressing and twisted garlic bread for starters. Main courses included rack of lamb or French-fried shrimp. For sides the menu features French fries, white rice, or baked potatoes with sour cream and steamed fresh asparagus tips. Also, refreshments served with the meal included sparkling apple cider, orange juice or milk. Birthday menus change every month.

“This is my first time ever eating rack of lamb,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class William Parkins. “It’s nice to have one day set aside to have something done for Sailors on their birthday.”

“The crew enjoys eating well and they look forward to this,” said Chief Warrant Officer Mike Hill, the ship’s Food Service Officer. “Our birthday menus are a high-morale booster which give Sailors the opportunity to sit down and relax as if they were actually being served in a real restaurant.”

“Last year I celebrated my birthday in service week at bootcamp. So this year it was wonderful to celebrate on the ship,” said Airman Apprentice Cristina DuVall. “The meal was great. The food was delicious, the service was stupendous and it was nice talking to the Captain.”

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS TARAWA (LHA 1)
FPO AP 96622-1600

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

